

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/687,756

Applicant(s)

HAMASAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Charles Chow

Art Unit

2618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/12/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 22-24.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>7/23/2007</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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Detailed Action

1. This office action is for amendment received on 7/12/2007.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment has been given from attorney Charles Watts in a telephone interview on July 23/2007, for correcting the typographical error in claim 24, as below:

For claim 24, in the second line before the last line,
replacing the "finger" with ----fingers----.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 22-24 are allowable over the prior art of record. The prior arts fail to teach the allowable features in the claims, singly, particularly, or in combination, or rendering obviousness.

Applicant has canceled claims 1-21 and amended the objected dependent claims 22, 24 to be the independent claims having the allowable features, the hooking portion associated with the swollen portion; when the plural fingers are inserted into hooking portion, to operate the button portions, in below:

a mobile information terminal comprising:

a case that is approximately palm-size;

a hooking portion that is provided in an **outward-protruding portion of said case;**

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wherein said hooking portion is formed such that a finger can be inserted into an inside of said hooking portion;

wherein said rear surface is formed with a swollen portion configured to fit in a palm;
said swollen portion of said rear surface of said case is fit in the palm [claim 22],

a mobile information terminal comprising:

a case that is approximately palm-size;

a hooking portion that is provided in an outward-protruding portion of said case;

wherein said hooking portion is formed such that a finger can be inserted into an inside of said hooking portion;

wherein said hooking portion is formed such that plural fingers can be inserted into an inside of said hooking portion;

wherein said rear surface is formed with a swollen portion configured to fit in a palm;

wherein said case is provided with plural button portions operable to be manipulated by the plural fingers to input information into said electronic circuit; and

wherein said button portions are arranged such that, when the plural finger are inserted into said hooking portion, said button portions are operable by the plural fingers [claim 24]

The dependent claim 22 is also allowable due to their dependency upon their independent claim and comprising additional claimed features associated to the features of the independent claim.

The closest prior art Lin [US 2003/0025,611 A1] a transceiver device TD 112 with LCD display [Fig. 2/Fig. 5, Fig. 9], the housing 124 with the key-ring 126 arranged on the top of the device having the buttons 114-116, while driving as shown in Fig. 9. But fails to teach a hooking portion that is provided in an outward-protruding portion of said case; wherein said hooking portion is formed such that a finger can be inserted into an inside of said hooking

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portion; wherein said rear surface is formed with a swollen portion configured to fit in a palm;
said swollen portion of said rear surface of said case is fit in the palm; when the plural
fingers are inserted into hooking portion, to operate the button portions.

Yang [US 6,297,808 B1] teaches a hand controller with case 1 [Fig. 1-4, Fig. 9-11 & Fig. 17-18], the case body 1 is traverse penetrated with finger holding holes 11, col. 2, lines 24-50], for conveniently holding a small hand held device via finger hole [col. 1, lines 127-36], but fails to teach the allowable features missed by Lin above.

Other prior arts in below were also considered, but they fail to teach the above allowable features,

Sato [US 6,625,283 B1] teaches the hook 16 for supporting mobile telephone near thumb [abstract, Fig. 5-6; col. 6, lines 32-39].

Saki [US 2005/0221,872 A1], having filing date of 4/5/2005, teaches closely a portable electronic camera device with display 8, protrusion portion of the case having a hook loop 4 for hooking up to projection 14 [abstract, Fig. 3].


Other references are also considered. They are: Rosebrugh et al. [US 5,630,168], Gettemy [US 2004/0046,739 A1], Nakao [US 6,352,322 B1], Pahlavan [US 2003/0142,065 A1], Foote [US 6,164,853], Perona [US 5,181,009], Ball et al. [US 5,610,386].

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

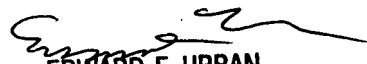
Conclusion

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Chow whose telephone number is (571) 272-7889. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Urban can be reached on (571) 272-7899. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Charles Chow 

July 20, 2007.


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